

## December 2005 Update

### Monticello Mill Tailings Superfund Site Monticello, UT (5-Year Review date 9/10/02)

#### Highlights Since the 2002 5-Year Review

- Channel redesigned, construction completed 10/01/02.
  - Fence installed around Supplemental Standards Properties 9/26/02.
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**Brief Site History:** The Monticello Mill Tailings site, a former U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) processing facility, lies in the Montezuma Creek Valley, east of the Abajo Mountains in southeastern Utah. The former mill site, on 78 acres of land, is bordered by the City of Monticello. The Vanadium Corporation of America constructed the mill in 1942. In 1944 the mill began production of uranium/vanadium sludge for the Manhattan Engineering District. In 1948, the US federal government bought the site. Mill operations stopped and tailings were stabilized in 1960. In 1964, the mill was dismantled. The cleanup is being addressed through a Federal Facilities Agreement. The DOE is the lead federal agency. EPA placed the site on the National Priority List in 1989.

**Cleanup Activities Completed:** A number of cleanup activities have been completed since 1995, including the following:

- Institutional controls to restrict the use of contaminated alluvial ground water;
- Treatment of contaminated surface and ground water during source removal;
- Monitoring of the contaminated ground-water system; and
- Construction of a permeable reactive-treatment wall for ground water at the mill-site boundary

**Current Status:** There are three Operable Units at the site. OU I has been completed. OU II has also been completed, and a zoning change was implemented in May 2003. A final remedy for OU III Surface Water and Ground Water was selected in August of 2004 and construction complete occurred in September 2004. Institutional controls are in place. See site Fact Sheet for updated information.

**Summary of Protectiveness:** OU I is currently protective of human health and environment. Remediation has been completed and exposure pathways are being controlled. OU II is currently protective of human health and the environment as all necessary institutional controls were implemented by May 2003. Monitored Natural Attenuation was selected as the final remedy for OU III contaminated surface water and ground water and all institutional controls have been implemented to ensure protectiveness in the long term.

**Issues Impacting Protectiveness:** A few issues that do not immediately impact the protectiveness of the remedy were noted. The following table summarizes the status of the follow-up actions addressing these issues.

**Monticello Mill Tailings Superfund Site  
Five-Year Review Update Table  
(Review Date 9/10/02)**

Issues	Recommendations Follow-up Actions	Follow-up Actions (Status/Due Date)	Status of Follow- up Actions 12/05	Responsible Party
1) <b>OU I:</b> Rock in drainage channels is degrading	- Rock meeting durability specifications should be placed in the channels over the existing rock.	Rock was placed in channels in May of 2002. Inspection was completed in August of 2002	Rock was placed in channels in May of 2002. Inspection was completed in August of 2002	Department of Energy (DOE)
2) <b>OU I:</b> Erosion is occurring at the exit of the west drainage channel.	- Rock in the channel should be extended beyond the eroded area and finish at a point where erosion will not occur.	Channel was redesigned and construction was completed on 10/01/02	Channel was redesigned and construction was completed on 10/01/02	DOE
3) <b>OU II:</b> Fencing around pinon/juniper supplemental standards property is not complete	- Properties should be fenced upon identification of funding.	Fence was installed around the Supplemental Standards Properties. Project completed on 09/26/02	Fence was installed around the Supplemental Standards Properties. Project completed on 09/26/02	DOE